

Message Text

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73

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 PCH-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 INT-08 OIC-04 RSR-01

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P 010016Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9237

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3046

DEPT PASS USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

DEPT POUCH AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, RQ, PFOR

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN UN COMITE OF 24

REFS: A) USUN 3036

B) USUN 2967

1. COMITE OF 24 ACTION ON PUERTO RICAN RESOLUTION (REF A), COSPONSORED BY SYRIA, IRAQ, MALI AND CONGO, WAS PRECEDED BY STRENUOUS EFFORT ON PART OF INDIANS TO ACHIEVE COMPROMISE WHEREBY NEGATIVE VOTES (ETHIOPIA, IRAN) WOULD SWITCH TO ABSTENTIONS IN RETURN FOR WEAKENING OF LANGUAGE IMPLICITLY CRITICAL OF USG IN SECOND OPERATIVE PARA (REF B). WHILE IRANIANS PREPARED TO ACCEPT COMPROMISE, ETHIOPIAN DELEGATE (TADESSE) INSISTED THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS WOULD NOT PERMIT HIM TO CHANGE HIS VOTE UNLESS STILL OTHER MODIFICATIONS MADE IN OBJECTIONABLE RESOLUTION INDIAN DELEGATE (AHMAD), CLAIMING HE ACTING ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE BECAUSE OF PERSONAL SYMPATHY FOR US POSITION, URGED US TO REQUEST ETHIOPIANS TO BACK DOWN. WHILE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR AHMAD'S EFFORTS, WE SAID WE SO OPPOSED TO RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE THAT WE COULD NOT AT LAST MINUTE REQUEST ETHIOPIAN TO MODIFY HIS PRINCIPLED OPPOSITION, BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT.

2. AFTER VOTE TAKEN, VENEZUELA AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MADE GENERALLY HELPFUL STATEMENTS QUESTIONING COMPETENCE OF COMITE TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF PUERTO RICAN ISSUE BEFORE OBTAINING UNGA AUTHORIZATION. VENEZUELA STATEMENT, HOWEVER, IMPLIED SYMPATHY FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTY.

AUSTRALIA SAID CONTROVERSIAL PARA 2 OF RESOLUTION "SHOULD BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT US NOT TAKING ANY MEASURES OBSTRUCTING RIGHTS OF PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO." AS IT DID LAST YEAR, INDIA ALSO MADE CONSTRUCTIVE BUT SOMEWHAT MYSTIFYING STATEMENT WHICH APPEARED TO JUSTIFY NO VOTE OR ABSTENTION RATHER THAN VOTE IN FAVOR OF RESOLUTION.

3. CUBAN DELEGATE AND PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER MARI BRAS ENGAGED IN THEIR STANDARD RHETORIC, AGAINST ATTACKING "YANKEE IMPERIALISM" AND "GENOCIDE" IN PUERTO RICO AND CLAIMING THAT RESOLUTION NOW PAVED WAY FOR SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE ON CONFIDENTIAL

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PUERTO RICO IN UN AND FOR DESPATCH OF VISITING MISSIONS TO PUERTO RICO.

4. COMMENT: WE VERY MUCH INDEBTED TO IRANIANS AND ETHIOPIANS WHO BROKE LONG STANDING COMITE TRADITION OF AVOIDING NEGATIVE VOTES IN ORDER TO ADOPT PRINCIPLED POSITION THAT COMITE EXCEEDING ITS MANDATE IN VOTING THIS RESOLUTION. THEIR ACTION MAY HAVE SALUTORY EFFECT OF STRENGTHENING SPINES OF OTHER MODERATES ON

COMITE DURING NEXT YEAR'S INEVITABLE GO-AROUND ON SAME ISSUE.

5. IRAQ, SYRIA AND, IN EARLY STAGES, CHILE PUSHED CUBAN POSITION THE HARDEST. CONGO DELIVERED MOST OBJECTIONABLE ATTACK ON US BUT, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE IT IS NEW MEMBER OF COMITE, PLAYED LITTLE ROLE IN CONSULTATION. MALI JOINED AS COSPONSOR OF RESOLUTION BUT REFRAINED FROM SPEAKING AND OTHERWISE TOOK LOW POSTURE.

6. WE SENDING SEPTELS ELABORATING ON ROLES PLAYED BY SOME DELEGATIONS AS WELL AS TEXT OF GOV. HERNANDEZ COLON'S STATEMENT. WE ALSO CONSIDERING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE HANDLING OF THIS ISSUE IN UN WHICH WE WILL TRANSMIT IN NEAR FUTURE. END COMMENT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: AMB. SCALI IS CALLING ETHIOPIAN AND IRANIAN PERM REPS HERE TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION OF THEIR PRINCIPLED STAND AND WE RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE SIMILAR EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE IN CAPITALS.
SCALI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT BAGHDAD.
POUCHED AMEMBASSY SUVA.

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